



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

EXPLORATIONS IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA.*

THE author, Mr. Baines, travelled from Walvisch Bay, on the west coast of Africa, to the Victoria falls of the Zambesi River, in company with Mr. James Chapman, a former friend, who had spent many years in travelling, and was well acquainted with the country, and the language of the natives. Mr. Baines had also travelled for many years in Africa and North Australia, and in 1858 was appointed artist to Dr. Livingstone's expedition to the Zambesi, and the Portuguese territories on the east coast. Leaving this in 1859, he returned to Cape Town, and on recovering from a severe illness, sailed for Walvisch Bay, which he reached on the 29th of March, 1861, and proceeded up the country to join his fellow traveller, (who had started some months previously) in an attempt to cross the continent from west to east; their intention being to travel to the Zambesi to some point below the Victoria Falls, with the land equipage belonging to Mr. Chapman, and then to descend the river in boats constructed of copper by Mr. Baines, capable of being used either singly, or when the breadth of the stream admitted, side by side, with a roomy deck between them, like the South Sea double canoes.

Fever and famine, and the death of many of the native attendants, compelled them to abandon the latter portion of their intended journey, and to return at a time when they had hoped their difficulties were almost overcome, and that in a few weeks they could have commenced their voyage down the Zambesi.

The journal, written under all the disadvantages incidental to such an expedition, where the travellers had to work at every laborious occupation that came to hand, passed through the press, while the author was still absent in Africa; and it is chiefly from the preface written by his aged and widowed mother, on whom devolved nearly all the labour of the revision, that we gather the foregoing details.

The dreary beach at Walvisch Bay overflowed at spring tides, so that no house can be erected save on an embankment previously raised, surrounded by shifting sand hills, and, excepting the scanty supply afforded by the Sand Fountain, four miles distant, utterly destitute of fresh water; is frequented only by a few Namaqua Hottentots, who, on the arrival of a vessel, come down to earn a little tobacco or other articles, by carrying up the cargo to the store house,

* *Explorations in South-West Africa.* Longman and Co., 1866. *The Victoria Falls of the Zambesi.* Day and Son, 1866.

or to assist the fishermen in cleaning and preserving the produce of their labour, or, perhaps, to lay in a store of provisions for themselves; the richer mounted on their oxen—by hunting buffaloes in the reeds of the Swakop river, fifteen miles to the northward; and the poorer by spearing with a sharpened stick or gemsboks horn, the sting rays and sand sharks in the shallow waters of the lagoon.

The native costume of these people is as picturesque as it is scanty, but the garments of softened leather, and ornaments of brightly coloured beads, harmonise with their yellowish brown skins, and it seems a question whether their appearances much improve by the adoption of civilised clothing, particularly when, as is often the case, the latter is merely some cast off rag, pertinaciously worn till its condition is perfectly indescribable.

As the Narip Desert is passed, and the village of Otjimbengue reached, we come more frequently in contact with the Damaras, or more properly, Herero, a pastoral race, who, driven from their home in the interior, (perhaps on the Zambesi below the falls) by some of the continual tribal wars, emigrated boldly, defending their cattle as they passed to the west coast, in latitude between 15° and 20°; then turning south, occupied the country down to the Swakop river, driving out the Topnaars or aboriginal Namaquas, and the Haukoin, a black race with language much resembling the Hottentot, and now commonly, though improperly called Berg Damaras. Farther and farther still they were spreading southward till the Topnaar Namaquas in despair entreated the assistance of Jonker Africaner and his tribe, who with their horses and fire-arms, not only checked the torrent of invasion, but subsequently plundered many villages of the Damaras, under circumstances of the most revolting barbarity.

The men of the Damara tribe are tall and well formed, though perhaps not equal to the Kaffirs; their native dress is picturesque, the chief peculiarity being a waist belt, consisting of a coil of many fathoms of small leathern cord, in which are stuck the keeries or knobbed clubs, or other weapons; their woolly hair matted into threads with grease and red clay, is parted in the centre, and hangs profusely on either side, almost imparting a feminine appearance to the otherwise manly features; a cockle shell is worn upon the forehead; the weapons are broad thin bladed assegais, the club previously mentioned, and occasionally the bow and arrow, the former of which is converted into a musical instrument by taking the string between their teeth, and tinkling it with a small twig or straw.

The three eared bonnet worn by the women, and their belt or bodice laboriously formed of small disks of ostrich egg shells strung like buttons upon leather thongs, are also most interesting, as well as

the peculiar sandal, the sole of which, instead of being cut as in other tribes to the shape of the foot, projects in points two inches or more beyond the toe and heel.

Their huts are of the rudest description, and little or no care is taken to render them water-proof, the inhabitants preferring rather to risk the drenching of the short rainy season, than to take this apparently superfluous trouble.

Their food is generally the roots gathered from the veldt, or the sweet gum of the mimosa, with the milk of their cattle, and rarely the flesh of such as may be slaughtered on great occasions; but those who were employed by the mining company were allowed five pounds of meat daily, and others living near the mission stations have begun to cultivate a little corn in the broad sandy bed of the Swakop river.

The Africaner and other Namaqua tribes living near have for the most part adopted the clothing and weapons of civilised life and not only coarse cotton shirts, duffel or moleskin jackets and trousers, wide-awake hats and common muskets are sought for, but traders are asked for superior clothing, and rifles of the best possible description.

The chief wealth of these people being also in their cattle, the danger of infection from lung sickness was a serious consideration, and they allowed no suspected oxen whatever to approach the drinking places, and even insisted on all the gear belonging to the wagons being well washed, tarred, and rolled upon the sand to free it from taint. With these necessary regulations of course the travellers cheerfully complied, great as was the inconvenience entailed by them—though not without an occasional murmur, at the semi-civilised legislators who hesitate not to break the laws when convenient to themselves, and cast the blame of their own indiscretions upon their visitors.

The bushmen of the desert seem to have been rather superior to the specimens of the same race found on the borders of the Cape Colony, they were frequently from five to five and a half feet in height, and in exceptional cases even taller; the skin was of a rich light brown, the limbs well formed, and but for the enormous adipose development behind, and the corresponding protuberance in front, their figure was generally good. Their clothing consisted only of a three-cornered piece of skin, two angles of which were tucked in front into the belt or small thong, tied round the loins, while the third hitched up behind and frequently left to retain its place by muscular action alone, occupied so exactly the position of a tail, that it may perhaps have suggested the stories we have heard of men with such appendages in Central Africa.

Of the condition of these people after a feast on the carcase of a

rhinoceros or elephant, shot by Mr. Chapman, some idea may be formed from the statement that the sentry they placed over their dried meat was unable to bend his body in sitting down, while the dogs themselves could not turn a corner, and the Damara servants were unable to do anything till they had slept off the effects of their last meal, and rose only to attack a fresh one.

It is pleasing to find that these children of the wilderness, living as they do in a scantily watered country where neither Hottentot nor Bechuana dare permanently settle, maintain an independent and manly bearing that contrasted favourably with the importunate effrontery of the Hottentots and the apathetic indolence of the Damaras, and it is not less gratifying to infer from the ready confidence with which, on all occasions, they came forward to meet the expedition, that the majority of English travellers in South Africa are not the heartless oppressors of the innocent native, that it is too much the fashion to represent them. A frank, honest, and kindly manner is essential in dealing with them; but kindness, unless backed up by sufficient firmness and determination, would soon be taken by the shrewd savage as a proof of weakness, and, instead of winning his esteem, would only be regarded with contempt.

Among the Bataoana, (or little lions, a sub-tribe of the Bechuana) at the lake Ngami, the qualifications of the explorers were severely tested by the cunning and hard bargaining of the peddling chief Leshūlátēbē, who seemed determined not only to become the possessor by gift or purchase at the lowest possible rate of everything the wagons contained, but, beside this, not to allow the travellers to pass so long as they retained an article he coveted. The record of Mr. Chapman's dealings with him may be recommended to the perusal of those who think our countrymen cheat the natives of the ivory in return for the merest trifles, when the fact is, that to the native, ivory has *no value whatever*, until he finds that it can be sold to a white man. The first trader of course buys it cheaply; as, for his enterprise, he deserves to do. But it soon rises to its market value, and if a musket worth ten shillings in Birmingham, be given for a tusk worth fifteen pounds in England, it must be remembered that freight, customs duty, the equipment of an expedition to the interior of Africa have to be paid, the risk of loss in cattle or otherwise to be incurred, a year, or perhaps two or three, to be spent in travelling, and expensive presents to be made to the chiefs and principal men, while the quantity of goods that can be carried in each wagon is so limited, that under the most favourable circumstances, the profit made by the trader cannot be considered an extravagant reward for his hazardous and toilsome journey.

There is little fear of such people as those of Leshulātābē being imposed on by inferior guns ; they know well enough the requisites of a good musket, and the chief, although preferring for his "boys" the stout and serviceable military brown bess, when purchasing for his own use, asks shrewdly, where are the guns *you shoot with* ? The horses too, are also subjects for negociation ; a "salted animal", *i.e.* one that has recovered from the "sickness," and is supposed not to be again liable, is worth a price almost exorbitant compared with that of one unacclimatised ; and here the cunning chief had almost over reached himself, for when Mr. Chapman honestly informed him he could not warrant the horse, the impression on his mind was, that the horse was really "salted," but that the owner, not wishing to part with it, was depreciating his own property.

His mode of administering justice was characteristic. A poor Makoba or boatman (of the original river tribes, subjected by the Bataoana) was severely flogged for stealing an adze, while other articles which the travellers supposed to have been taken by persons of more importance were never heard of.

The description of the war council is interesting. About three hundred warriors, many with their naked bodies grotesquely painted, squatted closely down, the front rank holding their shields before them, while those in the centre raised them as sun shades above their heads ; the chief, dressed in European costume, but retaining his native ornaments, sat in an iron chair recently purchased, and his uncle, Mákālōquē, a man more highly respected than he, stood near him. As each warrior finished his address, he rushed forward in a mimic sortie, and those who wished to applaud followed him, brandishing their spears, battle axes, or muskets, as if in contest with an enemy ; while the women, kneeling or sitting round, clapped their hands, and sang monotonous ditties in their praise.

Along the Bo-tlét-le river were scattered outposts and corn-fields and cattle stations of the Bataoana, and villages of the Makoba, or original canoe man of the river, now subjugated by them ; these last from the exertion consequent in paddling have more fully developed chests and shoulders, and the contrast between the slender figure of a young court favourite and his attendant Makoba was very striking ; one chief especially, named Makata, seems to have been a most indefatigable and successful hunter ; pit falls were dug in every possible game path, and the harpoons and lines for killing the hippopotamus were kept in constant readiness.

The desert tract between this river and the Zambesi was also well peopled by bushmen, some of whom were blacker and of greater stature than the generality, and when the travellers reaching the

northern limit of the plateau, descended to the valley of the Zambesi, they came among the scattered and dispersed remnants of various tribes of the Makálaka, who lived in constant fear of the predatory hordes of Mōsēlekātsē on the south east ; as well as of the Makalolo to the north and west.

Just previous to the arrival of the travellers, a party of Matabili had dispersed a tribe, killing the chief and destroying their crops, the survivors seeking refuge in "clumpjies," twenty men, and four or five women in one place, and forty men and half a dozen women elsewhere, but with no children, all the younger people having been carried into captivity.

To the credit of the chief Sechēli it is recorded that the travellers here fell in with the wagon of an ambassador, sent by him to demand from Sekelētū, restitution of the property plundered from the unfortunate mission party, of whom so many died in his country, certainly from harsh treatment and neglect, if not, as from native testimony there is too much reason to believe, from actual poison.

Of the Makalolo themselves we hear but little, as the travellers came in contact only with one of their outposts at the ferry above the falls, where the petty jealousy of Mōshotlāni, the head man, was again contrasted with the liberality of a native "gentleman" in the vicinity ; a present was sent by Mr. Chapman to Sekelētū, with a request to be allowed to hire ten men to assist in navigating down to the coast, the boat the travellers wished to construct below the falls, but we do not learn what answer was returned.

Some weeks were spent in surveying the magnificent Victoria Falls, Mr. Chapman photographing, and Mr. Baines sketching, at every possible opportunity, and both the travellers taking for geographical purposes, whatever observations were practicable. Of these falls we shall speak more in detail when we notice the work recently published by Messrs. Day, from the paintings of Mr. Baines, and shall conclude by observing that when they returned to their wagons, which the prevalence of the Tsetsē, or deadly cattle fly, prevented their bringing near the river, Mr. Baines started with a troop of Makalakas and Damaras, carrying tools and materials, in search of a place to rebuild the deficient portions of the boat and settling on an eminence which he named Logier hill, after an esteemed friend in Cape Town, was joined by Mr. Chapman, and made a trip to ascertain the navigability of the river below. Of their efforts to complete the boat and provide for the safe return of the wagons, dashed almost in the very moment of success by a sudden and deadly attack of fever, obliging them for the sake of the people to retreat to the high lands of the desert, he speaks but briefly. In fact we believe that the

rough diary was only partially in England when it attracted the attention of the publishers, and neither prepared nor intended for anything beyond the extraction of such geographical information as it might contain, when it was casually seen by Mr. Longman, who undertook the publication, while the task of revising and correcting for the press fell almost entirely on the mother of the artist, to whose unwearied devotion to the work, with the kind assistance of Captain C. George in reference to the observations for geographical positions, whatever credit it may be deemed worthy of is mainly due. The maps carefully drawn by Mr. Baines, from the joint observations of Mr. Chapman and himself, have been faithfully engraved by Mr. E. Weller, and considerably enhance the value of the record.

The author, while he has no sympathy with that class of philanthropists who injure the cause they strive to serve by representing the native as living in a state of primæval innocence till he learns wickedness by contact with the white man, is equally removed from those who, on the other hand, would degrade the Negro to the level of the gorilla—his object has been fairly to record the impression produced on his own mind by events of which he became cognisant, neither shutting his eyes to the degrading vices of the savage, nor seeking to deny him such virtues as are occasionally displayed even by the most barbarous.

Mr. Baines writes in a quiet, unassuming style; and his observations we believe to be thoroughly trustworthy. We especially commend the perusal of this work to the students of the descriptive anthropology of South-western Africa.

Mr. Baines has also just published a series of faithful reproductions, lithographed by Messrs. Day and Son in fac simile of the original of eleven of the oil paintings executed from sketches taken during a residence of above three weeks in the immediate vicinity of the Falls, which will convey to the English public some idea of the wealth of waters in tropical South Africa to the northward of the Kalighari desert.

These magnificent cataracts were first seen by Dr. Livingstone in 1855; but two years previously, Mr. James Chapman, a long known and highly esteemed friend of the artist, had visited the Zambesi, and had actually engaged a canoe to take him to the Falls, when the crew were recalled by Sekelētu, and he was obliged to forego the honour of being their discoverer.

Mr. Baines leaving the Zambesi Expedition commanded by Dr. Livingstone in 1859, found refuge in Cape Town with his steadfast friend Logier, by whose kindness he was mainly enabled to equip himself for another journey, and meeting again with Mr. Chapman, who

was preparing for an expedition to the interior, they agreed to attempt the passage across the continent from Walvisch Bay on the west coast, to the Delta of the Zambesi on the east. Mr. Baines constructed for the navigation of the lower river, a pair of copper boats in sections, of which, unfortunately, they were only able to convey a part to the place where they might favourably have been put together.

Various branches of the Zambesi appear to rise not far from the west coast, flowing through a level country nearly to the centre of the continent, where the Falls are formed by a deep narrow chasm cleft across the broad bed of the river, which, plunging four hundred feet into the abyss, escapes by another cleft joining the first at nearly three-fourths from its western end, and prolonged in abrupt zigzags and redoublings for many miles, engulfing the narrow lower river far below the level of the surrounding country, occasionally opening and again contracting, and traces of it appearing nearly to the Indian Ocean, more than eight hundred miles away.

Above the Falls, where the river is nearly on a level with the surrounding country, palms and tropical vegetation abound, and long reaches are descended on rafts or navigated in canoes, almost the only difficulty being occasioned by the thick growth of reeds in the shallower portions. Below them no continuous navigation is possible for eighty or a hundred miles; but beyond this long open reaches alternate, with rapids and narrow gorges, the most dangerous being those of Chicōva and Kēbrābāsa.

Leaving the wagons at a distance for fear of the deadly cattle fly, the travellers proceeded on foot over the long red sand hills, and bivouacking on the northern slope, heard during the stillness of the night the deep monotonous roaring of the Falls, not less than sixteen miles away, and on the morning of the 23rd of July, 1862, saw, for the first time, the clouds of spray and vapour rising 1200 feet from the abyss, with the broad upper river glancing like silver in the sunlight beyond, and nearer to them caught an occasional glimpse of the dark green water of the lower stream, winding in abrupt redoublings between the cliffs of its deep and narrow chasm.

Passing through the forest, rich in every tropical form of vegetation, they at length reached the vicinity of the Falls, every footstep of elephant, hippopotamus or buffalo being filled with fine clear water raining down to leeward in an incessant shower from the overhanging spray, and putting aside the branches that obstructed their view they stood upon the very edge of the chasm and looked down upon the Falls.

At the western angle, or immediately opposite, a body of water fifty or sixty yards wide came down like a boiling rapid over the broken

rocks—the steepness of the incline forming a channel for the reception of a greater body of water, and causing it to rush forward with accelerated violence, so as to break up the whole into a snow-white fleecy irregularly seething torrent, with its lighter particles glittering like myriads of diamonds in the sunlight, before it leaped sheer out from the edge of the precipice into the abyss below ; then interposed dark masses of cliff, and again long vistas of waterfall, partly hidden by the misty spray-cloud reflecting in the rays of the tropic sun a double rainbow of wondrous beauty. And as the friends passed on through the dank wet forest, on the southern edge of the chasm, they encountered a herd of buffaloes, and a battle ensued, which forms the most animated picture of the series.

The cataracts east of Garden Island, seen through the dark portals of the outlet, afford material for a striking picture, and the view from the edge of the cliff overhanging the mighty cataract of the leaping water at the west end of the chasm, contrasts with the shallower rills and spray-falls at the eastern end. The series is also varied by a picture of Zanjueelah, the skilful and daring boatman of the rapids, taking the artist and his friend in the little skiff to Garden Island, and is completed by a sketch of the dark green torrent of the lower river doubling round the profile cliff, the reddish yellow sides of which glow with increased warmth of colour in the light of the setting sun.

The frontispiece is an attempt to represent the general character of the Falls, and especially the contrast between the breadth of the upper river and the narrowness of the gorge below it, as it would be seen could the observer be raised perhaps a mile in the air above the western angle, when, if the position of the sun was favourable, the rainbow would be seen spread horizontally upon the spray beneath. Of course no one has, or perhaps ever will obtain, such a view ; but this having been compiled by the artist from his various sketches, and from three weeks' observation by himself and Mr. Chapman, may be regarded as giving the most accurate idea that can be conveyed by anything except the model constructed by him, which may now be seen in the rooms of the Royal Geographical Society.

The work was undertaken under the special patronage of some members of the Geographical Society, and other scientific men. Dr. Kirk, who visited the Falls with Dr. Livingstone, has testified to the artistic merit and truthfulness of the paintings ; and when they were first exhibited in Cape Town, Mr. E. Layard, the talented naturalist and Curator of the Cape Museum, and others who had seen the Niagara Falls, declared unhesitatingly that those of the Zambesi must be by far the grander of the two.

We have only to regret that, after successfully combating so many

difficulties, the travellers were obliged to abandon their design of descending the river, when they had so fair a prospect of having a boat ready to descend it, with the coming flood. We join in their hope that they may before long be again in a condition to attempt it; and we look forward with much pleasure to Mr. Chapman's forthcoming work, the result of many years travel in South Africa, which we feel sure must contain much valuable information respecting the various native tribes.

We understand that Mr. Baines has placed in the hands of Messrs. Day and Son a series of oil paintings representing the various natives of Kaffraria—South-Eastern and South-Western Africa—the majority of these are faithful portraits, actually finished while the natives sat, more or less willingly, to the artist as he worked under the shadow of the wagon awning, or perchance a rude grass-covered hut, far in the interior of the country. They have all at various times been exhibited before the Anthropological or Royal Society.

THE SECT OF MAHÁRÁJAS.*

THE Jesuit priests who followed in the train of Spanish conquest in America delighted in drawing parallels between the Old World and the New, demonstrating to their own complete satisfaction,—and using arguments of fire and faggot to those individuals who ventured to differ, however respectfully, from them,—that his Satanic Majesty had caricatured the institutions of the Judaic dispensation in the Occidental Continent. The historical researches of modern times have nullified the pet theories of the gentlemen who saw the devil in everything, and, as our real knowledge widens, we find instances *galore* in the Old World quite upholding its preeminence for wickedness and absurdity under the cloak of religious belief.

Mormonism, with its peculiar institutions, is a new and flourishing system, but Joseph Smith is not original in his ideas. India has maintained its character as an initiatory people, and a species of Mormonism has flourished in the Hither Peninsula for some centuries, as will be seen by the following statements, drawn from an elaborate and carefully-written volume now before us.

The existence of numerous sects among the Hindus is a well-known fact. Founded primitively upon the Vedas the Hindu worship con-

* *History of the Sect of Mahárájas, or Vallabhúcháryas, in Western India.* Trübner and Co.